

Message from the President

September-October 2016

Is it the camera, the photograph or you? The VCC was born in 1944 from the union of the Victoria Photographic Society and the Civil Service Camera Club. The reasons for the choice of 'camera' over 'photographic' are lost in the past, but I find something about that choice intriguing. Then, there is that final word, 'you'. Freeman Patterson is quoted as saying, "The camera points both ways. In expressing your subject, you also express yourself." So which word best captures the essence of why you are a participant in our club?

Over the years, I have always been fascinated by the camera technologies of the times. It started with my father's vintage foldout Kodak 120. Personally, I progressed from a basic box camera to 35-mm bodies, to a twin-lens reflex and, finally, to the current age of digital cameras. Retirement, in 1998, brought me face-to-face with the digital revolution. I opted for a Nikon Coolpix 900, with its massive 1.3 mega-pixels over the 35-mm SLRs then on the market. A digital bridge camera, two DSLR's and, ultimately, three mirrorless micro-four thirds bodies and an assortment of lenses found their ways into my den. Yes to cameras!

But what of photographs? Viewing and, more importantly, making images has always been my passion. In the early days, waiting for a delivery by post of one's prints could be excruciating. Nowadays, there is instant gratification. Seeing what one has captured and making something of it is the payoff for all that went before. I would have had no trouble had our club taken on the moniker 'photographic'.

So what does this have to do with that final word, 'you'? What do we shoot and why? That may not be straightforward or obvious. Circumstances, experiences and opportunities all come into play. In the digital age there are essentially no restrictions on the number of images which may be captured. I first took to venturing on foot from home, seeking as I have often said, "rusty objects in back alleys." That spoke to my preference for close-ups and abstracts. Perhaps that says something about me. I'll leave it to you to be the judge of that as you view some of my first-year favourites on my Flickr site at: www.flickr.com/photos/131347016@N07/albums.

That's my story; what is yours? One of the joys of participating in our club is to interact with fellow members and, over time, to learn more of your stories. Will you emphasize your gear, your images or your personal motivations and passions? For me it is about all three elements, melded together into the pursuit of a most positive hobby.

Garry Schaefer, President